

## Key Points

### Flu Partners Update

The National Influenza Vaccine Summit Health Care Worker Home Page is available from the AMA at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/16633.html>. The site links to a variety of tools created to help facilitate influenza immunization of health care worker

Pandemic Flu Preparedness: What Every Community Should Know will be broadcast today, September 29, 2006, 2:00 - 3:00 pm ET <http://publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/> to register.

Recommendations for Using Antiviral Agents for Influenza for the 2006-07 Influenza Season was updated on the CDC website on 9/26/06 at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/>. Although annual vaccination is the primary strategy for preventing complications of influenza virus infections, antiviral medications with activity against influenza viruses can be effective for the chemoprophylaxis and treatment of influenza. Four licensed influenza antiviral agents are available in the United States: amantadine, rimantadine, zanamivir, and oseltamivir.

Influenza A virus resistance to amantadine and rimantadine can emerge rapidly during treatment. On the basis of antiviral testing results conducted at CDC and in Canada indicating high levels of resistance, CDC and ACIP recommend that neither amantadine nor rimantadine be used for the treatment or chemoprophylaxis of influenza A in the United States until susceptibility to these antiviral medications has been re-established among circulating influenza A viruses. Oseltamivir or zanamivir can be prescribed if antiviral treatment of influenza is indicated. Oseltamivir is approved for treatment of persons aged  $\geq 1$  year, and zanamivir is approved for treatment of persons aged  $\geq 7$  years. Oseltamivir and zanamivir can be used for chemoprophylaxis of influenza; oseltamivir is licensed for use in persons aged  $\geq 1$  year, and zanamivir is licensed for use in persons aged  $\geq 5$  years.

## Keep Communicating!

In planning immunization clinics, Sanofi pasteur expects 40-50% of Fluzone®, Influenza Virus Vaccine dose requests to be delivered by the end of October, with future deliveries likely in November and possibly early December. They claim to be on track to deliver 50 million doses this flu season.

2006-2007 flu vaccine lot releases can be viewed at <http://www.fda.gov/cber/flu/flulot2006.htm> As of 9/27/06, 21 lots of Fluvirin, 17 lots of Fluarix, 21 lots of FluMist, and 32 lots of Fluzone have been released.

According to a study by researchers at Johns Hopkins University presented at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, babies born to mothers who received a flu shot during the last three months of pregnancy appear to be protected from infection during their first six months of life. Current vaccines are not licensed for babies less than 6 months and this study suggests that immunizing pregnant women can protect babies during those months. The press release can be read at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-09-27-mother-flu-shot\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-09-27-mother-flu-shot_x.htm)

**Attached** to this email is information on the Michigan Volunteer Registry, an Internet-based system enabling health care personnel and citizens to pre-register and volunteer to provide assistance during an emergency. Brochures and posters are available from OPHP.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is reporting that when combined with an adjuvant (an immune-boosting substance), low doses of an experimental vaccine against a strain of avian influenza (H9N2) provoked a strong antibody response in human volunteer. The press release can be read at <http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/sep2006/niaid-25b.htm>. Some of the vaccines were formulated with Novartis's MF59 adjuvant.

## surveillance update

Michigan Flu Focus are archived on [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

Sentinel Surveillance (as of September 28, 2006): During the week ending September 23, 2006, the proportion of visits due to influenza-like-illness (ILI) increased slightly to 0.5% of all visits. Fourteen sentinels provided data for this report. Low levels of ILI activity were reported in all regions; the percentage of visits due to ILI increased slightly to 0.7% in the Southeast, decreased to 0.0% in the North and remained at 0.6%, Central region and 0.0%, Southwest.

The national influenza weekly surveillance summary will be available starting Oct. 13, 2006 at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

## Public Message

For the most current state information, please see [www.michigan.gov/flu](http://www.michigan.gov/flu)

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes.  
Please feel free to distribute widely.

For questions on FluBytes, please contact Liz Harton, Public Health Advisor at HartonE@michigan.gov

This newsletter is distributed to local health departments, Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Coordinators, members of the Michigan Advisory Committee on Immunizations (MACI), Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM), and representatives of the Flu Advisory Board (FAB).

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### **Resource List**

ACIP Recommendations for the Prevention and Control of Influenza (including the erratum) can be viewed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5510.pdf>

The CDC online flu gallery, including electronic files of flu campaign materials is up and ready to use at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/patiented.htm>. Patient and provider education materials are available for reproduction or you can order limited quantities.

Flu brochures and immunization materials can also be ordered from the MDCH Clearinghouse at <http://www.hpclearinghouse.org/>

Influenza Education Modules available! Continuing Education credit options available!

1. Pediatric and Adult Influenza Update: Contact your local LHD for this Immunization Nurse Education Module.
2. Influenza Education module from the MSU Extension Physician Peer Education Program (contact Traci Osterman 517-353-6674)

Influenza (LAIV and TIV) Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) for Michigan providers can be downloaded from [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)

Joint Commission Establishes Infection Control Standard to Address Influenza Vaccines for Staff / [http://www.jointcommission.org/newsroom/newsreleases/nr\\_06\\_13\\_06.htm](http://www.jointcommission.org/newsroom/newsreleases/nr_06_13_06.htm)